



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 4 Term 3 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

## From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

### Student Wellbeing Survey

The College Pastoral Team developed a short survey which our students have been asked to complete over the last week. The questions range from: *do the students feel they are up to date and feel prepared in each of their subjects, enquiring about a change in friendship groups since the return to school, how they currently feel in Week 4 of this Term, and in what ways the College can be of further assistance.* The results are then analysed by each year group Wellbeing Team under the direction of the Year Leader.

At a staff meeting earlier this term, I presented the latest research from the Grattan Institute, titled "[Covid catch-up](#)". The Institute highlights "...Fortunately many students will catch-up on the learning lost without too much trouble. But for some, especially disadvantaged students, the learning losses will be bigger and harder to overcome..." (pg 6).

The authors define "disadvantaged" as not only economically disadvantaged, but those students in "vital transition points in their education" (e.g. Years 7 and 11-12), those "at risk, those with poor mental health or existing social or behavioural problems and those with special learning needs" (pg 11).

As a College we must do our best to identify these students but also, and more importantly, plan individual strategies so these students can achieve the best possible outcomes, now and in the future.

This survey is just one part of this process we have instigated in order to identify and help these students.

### Aquinas Resource Centre – 'Online'



Last week I met with our Teacher-Librarian, Ms Michaela Hashim who is 'caretaker' of our very popular Aquinas Resource Centre (transformed library). Over the past couple of months, Ms Hashim has been creating and developing a website that will benefit all of our students.

The website, available via the **Parent and Student Links tab on the College website**, provides access to:

- curated collections of resources to support students in many topics in all subjects across all stages;
- referencing support via the link to the school's subscription of CiteMaker;

- comprehensive support and guidance across all stages of the research process;
- our collection of books (print and online) to encourage our students to become lifelong readers;
- detailed guides to assist students with accessing more scholarly information available through databases.

Thank you to Ms Hashim for her ability and passion to provide this valuable resource for our College community. Please contact Ms Hashim if you need any resources for study, assessment tasks or just to read an enjoyable book!

## Covid-19 Update

All parents and care-givers should have received a letter yesterday reiterating the procedures the College would undertake should we receive notification of a positive Covid-19 result.

Our dedicated College hygienist continues to work through each day, cleaning all of the multiple-touch surfaces and high use areas. The campus has 11 hand sanitising stations as well as hand sanitisers in each classroom.

## Year 12 Trial HSC Exams

On behalf of the College, we offer our Year 12 students best wishes as they undertake their Trial HSC Exams commencing Monday, 17 August. Some students have already commenced their practical exams, but all written exams commence on 17 August. These exams will mirror the HSC exams, in content, format, structure and timing of the HSC to be conducted from 20 October. The majority of our students have prepared very well with the help of their teachers and family. You are in our prayers and we wish you all the best in these upcoming final assessment tasks.

## College Cyclist Agreement

Over the past two weeks, I have met with those students who ride their bikes to and from the College. With the increase in traffic before and particularly after school, there is a pressing need to put in some parameters to ensure the safety of all members of our community. Collaboratively, we have come up with a set of guidelines, particularly around entry and exiting the College grounds and surrounding streets. They are:

### To and from the College:

- Riders will always wear a helmet and abide by the road rules.

### On Arrival at the College:

- Bike riders will ride down Windarra Cres very aware of parked and parking cars, and at all times staying in control of their bike and ride with extreme caution. Bikes are to be locked up in the College bike rack for the day until the conclusion of classes at 3pm.

### Exiting the College:

- Walk bikes to the grass and keep out of the way of any waiting students, parents or teachers.
- Riders will ride/walk (depending on the number of students) with bikes to the top of Windarra Cres where they will ride their bike home.

I am sure that these basic guidelines will assist in the health and safety of all our community members.

*As a faith-filled Catholic community I pray you and your family are managing to adapt to the 'new normal' and if the College can assist you in any way, please contact me via [Jayne Persico](#) in my office.*

**Tony Gleeson**  
**Principal**

# From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

## College Photographs – Thursday, 20 August

Please note the following dates in relation to College photographs:

- **Thursday, 20 August** - Mentor Group photographs, Intake 2020 - Year 11 individual portraits and sibling portraits will take place. Students must wear **full College winter uniform including blazers**. All male students must be clean shaven. All female and male students with hair beyond their shoulders must have it tied back

**Please note that students of Intake 2020** will need to bring their sports uniform to change into after their photos have been taken.

- **Tuesday, 1 September** - Year 12 College photos (individual and Mentor Groups) and catch up photos for students who were absent on 20 August will take place. Year 12 students will be photographed without their blazer (for 2020 only).

## Uniform

Thank you to all parents and guardians for supporting the College Uniform and Grooming Policy. The vast majority of students have worn the College uniform with pride and is a credit to them. The College is unique in our local area regarding its physical position. Unlike our neighbouring schools, it is not positioned on the highway but is nestled in a gully. This bushland setting is ideal for a beautiful campus, but therefore places additional emphasis on our students crossing the highway each day as the only local exposure for the College. The reality of this is that the students and the way in which they wear the College uniform, becomes an important marketing strategy of the College as they cross the highway twice a day.

In light of this, the College continues to maintain the highest expectations and standards with regards to the uniform and student grooming. A few gentle reminders:

- The blazer is compulsory to and from the College during Terms 2-3
- Hair beyond the shoulders must be tied back
- Shoes must be black and polishable
- No foreign items of clothing can be worn in conjunction with the uniform
- The College has an official rain jacket for sale. As a result, no other rain jackets are permitted
- The College campus is air conditioned and heated. As a result no additional items of clothing can be worn to keep warm. Students have the option of wearing their College jumper underneath their blazers
- All male students must be clean shaven.

Uniform demerits are issued for students who have not followed the uniform policy. Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

## Environmental Growth Domain Projects

It has been very exciting witnessing these projects take place. Daily there are news items that highlight the growing plight of our ecological networks due to climate change. Students from Intake 2020 - Year 10 need to submit their projects on Friday, 4 September. Students should be working on such projects during Mentor and in their personal time. Students should seek assistance from Mentors if required. Congratulations to our students for their efforts.



## College Debating Teams

Congratulations to our College Debating Teams who performed exceptionally well again last Friday. Four out of five teams won against Redfield College. For the last three consecutive weeks, the Lion of St Leo's has continued to roar with success. The final round of the four week competition will take place this Friday against St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas. We wish every blessing to the teams.

## College Calendar

Today the College Calendar will be uploaded to Compass and available to parents and students. This Calendar is for the remainder of Term 3. The Term 4 Calendar will be released very shortly. The calendar has been adjusted according to the latest advice from the NSW Government regarding Covid.

To access the calendar, simply click on the 'Calendar Icon' (next to the House) in the tool bar at the top of the screen. By selecting the 'month' view on the far right hand side of the tool bar, parents will be provided with a monthly overview.



Month	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
26	Year 10 PDHPE Assessment...	Year 11 Economics Assessm...	Year 11 Legal Studies Assess...
27	Term 3 Week 2 (B)	Parental Lion Roars Distribut...	11:15: 12STUDY.R3WEDB3 ...
28	Year 9 Elective History Assessment Task - in class presentations	2:00: 12STUDY.R3MONB5 - ...	7:00: Aerobics Training
29	10:50: MOOB - PETRDLL1	12:15: 12STUDY.R3WEDB4 ...	12:15: 12STUDY.R3THUB4 ...
30	1:15: MOOB - PETRDLL1	2:00: 12STUDY.R3MONA5 - ...	1:15: MOOB - PETRDLL1
31	1:15: MOOB - PETRDLL1	3:00: Highway - PETRDLL1	1:15: MOOB - PETRDLL1

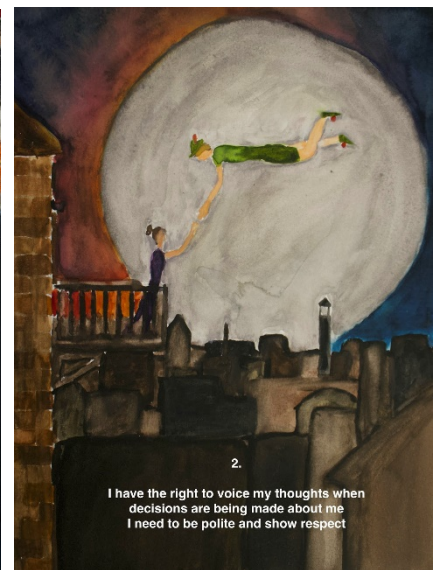
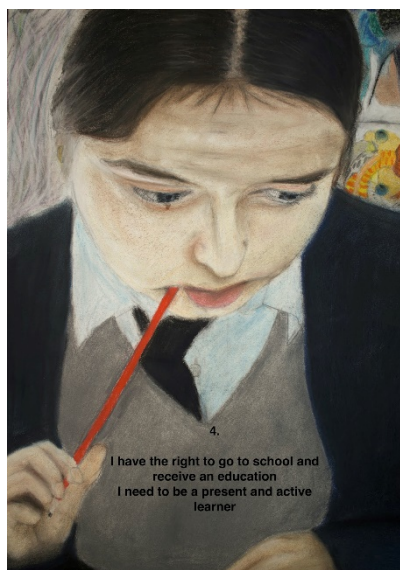
## Child Protection Publication and College Artworks

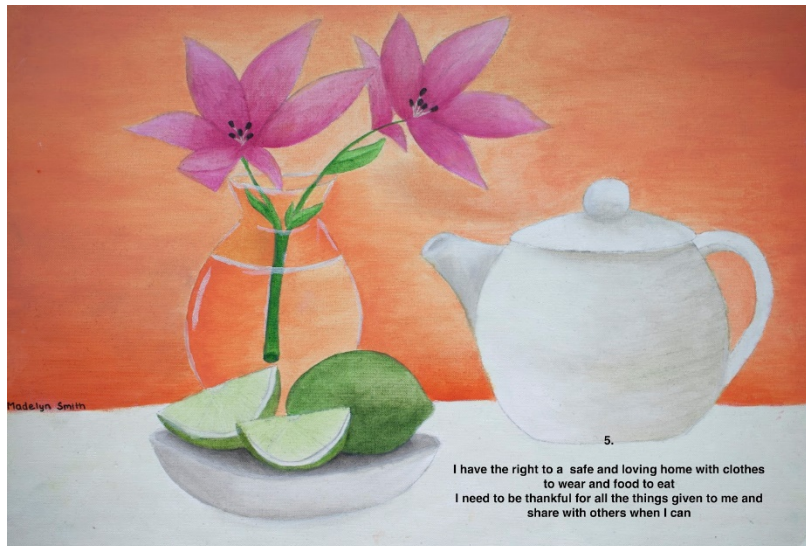
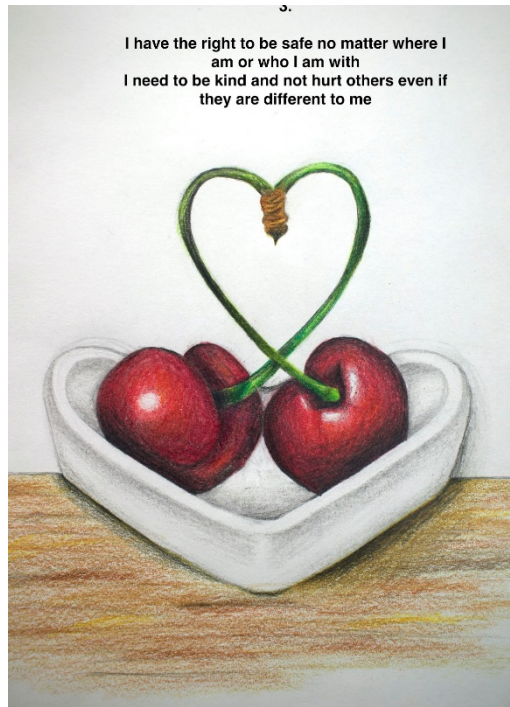
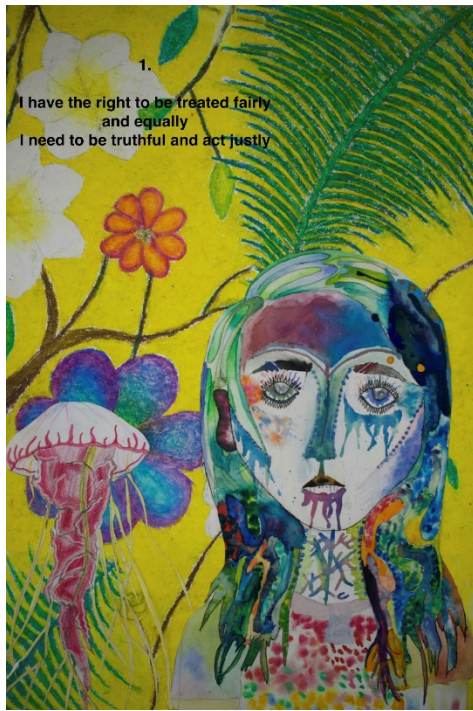
The Office for Safeguarding/Child Protection Team are producing a booklet that will be available to schools in September 2020 for the launch of National Child Protection Week and Diocesan Safeguarding month.

In line with the 31st anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, this booklet will provide students with a condensed but clear message of what their rights and responsibilities are.

St Leo's was selected to provide artworks that expressed and highlighted a number of these rights and responsibilities.

Congratulations to the students and their art teachers. The artworks are of a particularly high standard and reflect the talent of our students and our staff.





*Blessings and stay safe.*

**From the Acting Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation:**  
Mr Nathan Smith

**Prayer for the Assumption of Mary**  
*Father in heaven,  
 all creation rightly gives You praise,  
 for all life and all holiness come from You.  
 In the plan of Your wisdom  
 she who bore the Christ in her womb  
 was raised body and soul in glory to be with Him in heaven.  
 May we follow her example in reflecting Your holiness  
 and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.*

## The Feast of the Assumption

This Saturday, 15 August is the **Feast of the Assumption** of Our Lady, where we acknowledge the end of the Blessed Virgin Mary's earthly life and celebrate the assumption of her body and soul into heavenly glory.

We will celebrate this Holy Day of Obligation on **Friday, 14 August** during our Friday Lunchtime Mass. I would like to extend a warm invitation to all students to join us at lunchtime for this very special occasion, where we pay tribute to our Blessed Mother and celebrate the important role that she plays in our faith development today.

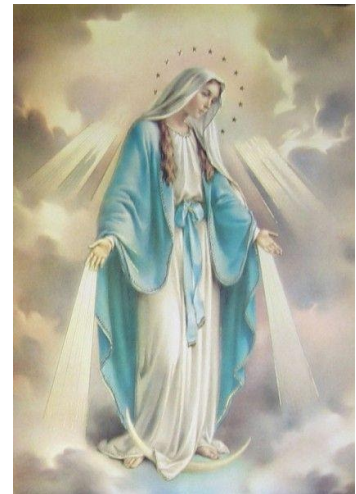
In addition, students have the opportunity to write their own prayer offerings or intentions to our Blessed Mother. These offerings will be presented during Friday Mass and prayed for; asking for Mary's divine intervention. Students can simply visit the College chapel throughout the day between now and Friday to write their prayer or intention and place it in the blue bowl that is at the feet of our Heavenly Mother.

Mass will commence at 1.20pm in the College Chapel.

## Weekly Rosary

Our regular weekly Rosary continues in the College Chapel on Wednesday at Recess. This is a beautiful prayer opportunity for students to connect with their faith and as we lead up to the Feast of the Assumption.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to students to attend this week's Rosary. We will offer special prayers and intentions to the Blessed Virgin Mary and ask for her intervention and providence. Rosary commences at 10.55am.



## Read the Latest Edition of the Broken Bay News

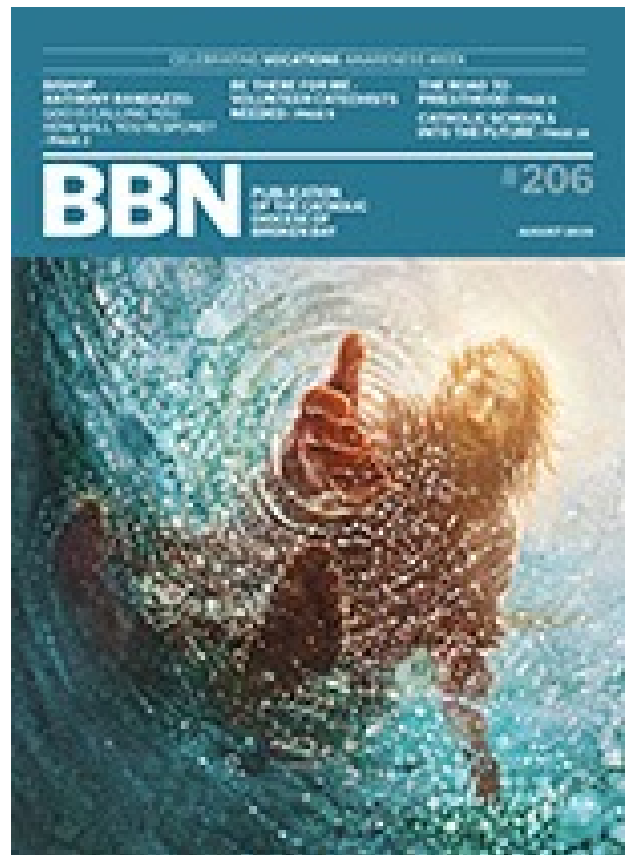
Please take some time to read the current edition of the [Broken Bay News](#).

In addition to the online version, students will be given a hard copy of the publication as well as a special prayer card, for them to take home.

These items will be distributed to students via their Religious Education classes.

Please check-in with your young person this week to ask for the publication.

(See page 22 for the story of the St Leo's Vinnies Winter Appeal.)



# From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

## Year 12 - Reaffirming our Connections

Last week, during the extended Wednesday Mentor period, Year 12 had a very special meeting led by Mr Ralph Kerschler and Mr Nathan Smith (Acting Director of Catholic Formation & Evangelisation).

Given recent events at neighbouring schools, along with the stressors linked to the pending Trial HSC examinations, Mr Smith and I felt it was timely for Year 12 to relax/meditate, reaffirm their connections with God, and their peers. It was a special gathering and I know the students really appreciated the very informal connection time.

It was also an appropriate space in the Edinburgh Gallery to work through the students' current emotions as well as allowing them to informally re-assess the path they are presently travelling. For example, Mr Smith led a Mentor group reaffirmation activity which effectively allowed 'open' conversations and has now provided an important platform for the cohort's day Retreat in Week 10.

Following the Trial HSC examinations, Year 12 will be engaging in similar **connection building** activities during the extended Mentor periods. This key pastoral support work will provide an effective lead-in to their final Retreat experience at Leo's as well as enhancing their coping skill sets.

## How to Help our St Leo's Teenage Community Stay Safe Online

**An important extract from the eSafety Commissioner** (visit the [eSafety website](#) for further information).

*Are you playing it safe or just staying home with the kids more because their usual activities have been cancelled? Whatever the reason, COVID-19 is likely to mean young people spending more time at home, and online. There are a lot of great ways they can use connected devices to learn and play, but there are also risks that you can help them avoid. eSafety has a wide range of advice for parents and carers covering common online safety issues like managing screen time, cyberbullying, inappropriate content, sending nudes and contact from strangers. We also have basic online safety advice for parents in languages other than English. Here is **one step** to help protect young people.*

### Start the Chat

*It's not possible to be at your child's side every second of the day, so it's important to talk with them about online safety issues to help develop their critical thinking and ability to make good choices. It's also good to let them know they can come to you for help if they have any concerns. You may feel they know more about the latest technology than you do, but you have more life experience to guide them.*



- *Take the opportunity to set some boundaries around when and where they can use devices like tablets, smart TVs and gaming consoles, to help limit potential tech tantrums*
- *While you are all at home more, it's a great time to co-view and co-play with your kids, so you can understand what they are doing and experiencing online.*
- **Learn about the games, apps, social media and platforms they are using at [The eSafety Guide](#), including how to protect their information and report inappropriate content or conduct.**
- *Encourage them to explore eSafety's targeted advice for kids (primary school) and young people (secondary school)*
- *Check eSafety's tips for talking with your child about tricky personal subjects like online pornography.*

## **Absences**

Parents/caregivers are requested to enter any relevant attendance information (sickness, early departure etc.) using the **Add Attendance Note** feature on the Compass Parent Portal. This will ensure that the College's database is up-to-date with student movements.

## **From the VET Coordinator**

Ms Megan Tynan

## **TVET 2021 Expressions of Interest NOW OPEN**

Any student in Year 10 who is interested in a TVET Course in 2021, please see Ms Tynan for an Expression of Interest form.

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